

# AMERICAN EMBASSY'S NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW

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1. Laurent Gbagbo's FPI denounces alleged bias by court
2. Domestic affairs and security issues
3. Media-related issues

## 1. Laurent Gbagbo's FPI denounces alleged bias by court

The decision by an Abidjan court not to grant bail to former president Laurent Gbagbo's wife and top aides has triggered criticism from the his FPI party, which is tagging the decision as biased. A report in Notre Voie (p. 4) denounced inconsistencies and contradictions in the court's decision. The paper qualified the move as a way for the ruling regime to "blackmail" the opposition.

Similarly, L'Inter (p. 2) reported on a statement made yesterday by FPI official Dr. Augustin Guehoun in which he called on Ivorian authorities to ensure that Ivorian justice is fair and credible. According to the daily, Dr. Guehoun denounced the double-standard of justice Ivorian authorities have used since the end of the electoral crisis.

## 2. Domestic affairs and security issues

On domestic affairs, papers reported on a meeting between President Alassane Ouattara and the Ivorian civil society group Convention de la Societe Civile Ivoirienne (CSCI). Providing details, Fraternite Matin (p. 7) noted the meeting was held to discuss ways to promote social cohesion and national unity. The CSCI also used the occasion to advocate measures likely to boost the recovery of the country's economy and paid tribute to the Ivorian president for his leadership. The CSCI, the paper added, is the country's main civil society organization.

Security issues continue to dominate the press after the ultimatum given by President Ouattara to the leadership of the army to track down rogue FRCI elements expired yesterday. According to a report in Soir Info (p. 3), Ivorian top military and police brass have initiated a series of field operations to sensitize troops and have called on army personnel to abide by military discipline. The drive was highlighted by a clean-up operation aimed at banning unofficial army vehicles from Abidjan streets.

With more on the issue, Fraternite Matin (p. 4) noted that the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) called on the Ivorian government to implement measures to strengthen discipline within its armed forces and "separate the wheat from the chaff." Speaking yesterday in the course of

the mission's weekly press briefing, UNOCI spokesperson Mr. Hamadoun Toure said cases of abuse by FRCI elements are causing anger among civilians at a time when efforts are underway to strengthen social cohesion and reconciliation. He cited cases of arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions, the paper said, adding that the UN mission will continue to support the Ivorian government as it tries to end these human rights violations.

Still on the issue, Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 5) noted that Prime Minister Guillaume Soro is to meet today with the leadership of the army.

However, an article in Notre Voie (p. 5) argued that despite the expiration of the ultimatum, FRCI elements are still occupying the streets in Abidjan and upcountry. The daily suggested that the drive has not yet yielded tangible results.

### 3. Media-related issues

The Conseil National de la Presse (CNP), the country's print media regulatory body, handed over yesterday its 2010 annual report to the Ivorian Minister in charge of Communication, Mr. Souleimane Diakite Coty. Providing details, L'Inter (p. 14) noted that a total of 338 sanctions and other reprimands were issued by the CNP in 2010 against media outlets and reporters. According to CNP President Eugene Die Kacou, the 236 page document reported cases of violations of professional ethics and media law. On his part, Mr. Diakite Coty called on journalists to report responsibly and to uphold the highest standards in doing their job. He also noted that the government is committed to supporting a responsible press in Cote d'Ivoire.

Note: Opposition newspapers Le Quotidien and Aujourd'hui were not published today; both have been suspended by the Conseil National de la Presse, Cote d'Ivoire's print media regulator.